Sinclair Broadcasting's forcing their stations to program a "documentary against Senator Kerry only a few days before the election is a reprehensible misuse of public airwaves for what is virtually a partisan, political program masquerading as news. In effect, Sinclair is thumbing its nose at FCC regulations, election law, and real news reporting so vital to the public. Sinclair's action represents the very real dangers of media consolidation and the public's right to real news and real reporting.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned

postcard. Thank you.